VCR REPORT

By Myles Callum

'JFK' may be right even if it's wrong

Controversial, dubious, twitted at the Oscars—Oliver Stone's "JFK" raises more questions than it answers about the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Was he shot by one assassin, Oswald, acting alone, as the Warren Commission concluded, or were there three or four gunmen and a high-level conspiracy involving the CIA, FBI, Secret Service, anti-Castro Cubans, the military-industrial complex, and others, including the mob? However it really happened, "JFK" is scarily convincing on one point: the Warren Commission got it wrong, to put it charitably. As long as you understand that "JFK" offers only one of several possible scenarios—a "counter-myth," Stone has said—you can appreciate it for what it is: terrific moviemaking. Stone's blending of actual footage with dramatized speculation is dizzying and sometimes overwhelming, but mostly brilliant. Kevin Costner, in his quietly heroic Eliott Ness mode as New Orleans district attorney Jim Garrison, is backed by an impressive cast, including Oscar-nominated Tommy Lee Jones, Sissy Spacek, Kevin Bacon, and Jack Lemmon, to name a few. Even at three hours-plus, "JFK" is riveting. But if you want a break, there's a bonus: it comes on two tapes, so you can make the intermission as long as you like. (R 3:09 Warner $94.99) ■

Warner Bros.

***Kevin Costner** stars as New Orleans district attorney **Jim Garrison**, who believed in a bizarre, high-level conspiracy theory.*

ALSO IN STORES

The Silence of the Lambs

The suspenseful, Oscar-sweeping thriller has been affordably repriced for consumers at $19.98. Jodie Foster, Anthony Hopkins, and Scott Glenn star in the Thomas Harris story about an FBI trainee who has to get close to a psychopathic psychiatrist in order to catch a serial killer. (R 1:58 Orion)

Meeting Venus

Glenn Close stars as a Swedish diva who falls for her conductor (Niels Arestrup) in this backstage romantic comedy about an opera company plagued by jealousies and political antagonisms. It has a European flavor and gets off to a slow start, but it picks up when the romance gets going. (PG-13 2:00 Warner $92.99)

TOP RENTALS

1. "The Last Boy Scout"
2. "Ricochet"
3. "The Fisher King"
4. "Boyz N the Hood"
5. "Necessary Roughness"
6. "Curly Sue"
7. "Dead Again"
8. "Thelma & Louise"
9. "The Doctor"
10. "Deceived"

—Courtesy of Blockbuster Entertainment